

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request consideration and Allowance of independent Claim 6 and new independent Claims 21-26 in view of the following arguments.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 and 21-26 are pending in this case.

CLAIMS 6 and 21-26 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY, OR OBVIOUS IN VIEW OF, THE FIELD ET AL. PATENT

The Examiner in the prior application, US patent application serial number 09/935,807, rejected independent Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Field et al. (US # 5,637,174). Applicants respectfully submit that Field et al. does not teach Applicants' invention as claimed and, further, there is no suggestion to modify the Field et al. device in the manner claimed.

THE FIELD ET AL. PATENT

The Field et al. patent discloses a device for creating an identification card from a single, complete, color picture image 14 covered with laminate (Column 3, lines 15-24 and column 4, lines 61-67) and with a separate, complete, bar code image 33 on the back (Column 5, lines 13-20).

The Examiner stated that Field et al. discloses "a laminator apparatus or lamination module (28) for "forming an image from a plurality of films or printed sheet (12, 16) with the laminator apparatus (see Fig. 1 and cols. 3-6 of Fields et al.)" (Page 2 paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action dated April 14, 2003 in the prior application). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The items the Examiner identified as a plurality of films or printed sheets (12, 16) are actually cover film 12 and backing film 16. (See eg Column 3, lines 16-18). There is no suggestion or teaching that these cover and backing films contain printed material in any form. They are simply used to protect an already complete image 14 and receive a complete image 33.

Claim 6

In contrast to the technique of Field et al., which is essentially a system for creating a laminated identification card including a color image of the user and a bar code on the back, Applicants' independent Claim 6, is directed to the creation of an image from a plurality of printed sheets with the lamination module.

As set forth in the Background of the Invention, for example, Applicants have solved a problem in the art in that, although current printers, including Field et al., can enlarge or shrink an image, current devices do not and can not arrange a series of printed sheets so as to form a single large printed image. Moreover, Applicants' invention provides for enlargement of an image by the creation of an image from a connected series of enlarged portions of an image. (See eg page 1, lines 11-19 and page 8, lines 10-22). By way of example only, Applicants' invention may form a "wall sized" image from a plurality of printed sheets 80 based on photographic information provided by a "wallet sized" photograph. (See page 8, lines 18-20). As such, the image in Applicants' invention is created from a plurality of printed sheets by means of the lamination module.

Comparing this with the system disclosed in Field et al., it is apparent that Field et al. does not teach or suggest such a system for creating an image from a plurality of printed sheets with a lamination module as required in independent Claim 6. The closest Field et al. comes is the disclosure of laminating a single complete image and that is clearly well known in the art.

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 6, is not anticipated by, nor obvious over, Field et al. and is entitled to allowance. For similar reasons, newly presented independent Claims 21-26 are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of Claims 6 and 21-26.

Respectfully submitted,

SHAFFER & CULBERTSON, L.L.P.

Date: 5 Aug 03

By: 

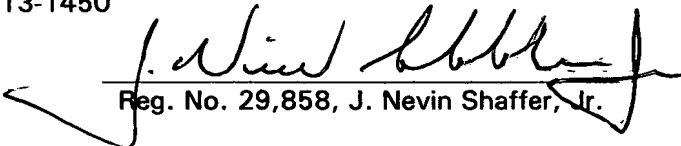
J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr., Reg. No. 29,858
Russell D. Culbertson, Reg. No. 32,124
1250 Capital of Texas Hwy. South
Building One, Suite 360
Austin, Texas 78746
512-327-8932 or 850-934-4124

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

"Express Mail" Mailing label number EU917365415US

Date of Deposit: 5 Aug 03

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Reg. No. 29,858, J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr.